

claimed invention because Carey et al. teaches the desirability of the inner container 30 initially blocking the flow of inflation gas into the confinement 13. On the other hand, applicants' claimed invention has a baffle opening that is partially aligned with the inflator opening thereby allowing a portion of the inflation gas to flow directly into the airbag.

Carey et al. teaches a modified embodiment whereby the airbag has a baffle member 130 instead of a burstable inner container 30. Carey teaches that the "baffle member 130 is located in a position so that the initial flow of fluid into the confinement 13 is directed so as to impact against a surface 131 of the baffle member 130" (col. 3 lines 37-40). As mentioned earlier, the baffle opening in applicants' claimed invention is aligned with the inflator opening so that as a portion of the inflation gas passes through the baffle opening without impacting it.

Applicants also claim in claim 14 an airbag having an inner airbag with a baffle opening which is novel over Carey et al. for the same arguments outlined above.

B. Claim rejections- 35 U.S.C. §103

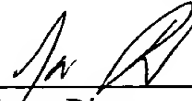
Claims 4-5, 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carey et al. in view of Nelson et al. These claims depend directly and or indirectly on main claim 1. Main claim 1 should be allowed for the above identified reasons and thus claims 4-5, 10, and 11 should also be allowed.

Claims 6-9 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carey et al. in view of Taguchi et al. These claims depend directly and or indirectly on either main claim 1 or main claim 14. Main claims 1 and 14 should be allowed for the above-identified reasons, and thus claims 6-9 and 15-17 should also be allowed.

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It is believed that the application is in form and condition for allowance and such action by the examiner is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,



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